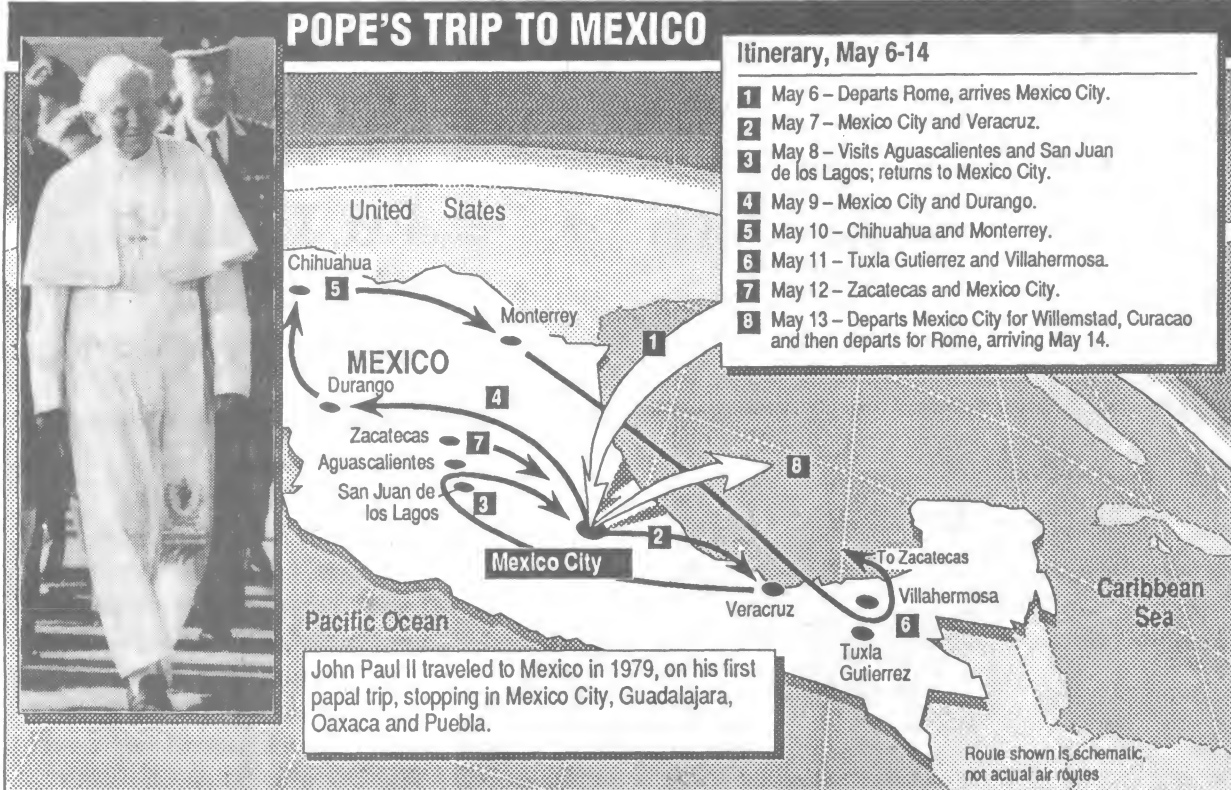


POPE'S TRIP TO MEXICO



The Houston Post

POPE: John Paul II beatifies 5 in Mexico

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the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — to negotiate with Moscow in their efforts to gain independence.

The Polish-born pope said the rights of the republics must be balanced against the damage that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of economic and political liberalization could suffer.

"Things must be resolved by a dialogue, but by an effective dialogue," the pope said. "One cannot go beyond this at this time."

In a last-minute change of plans, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari welcomed the pope at the airport, instead of the foreign minister. The move emphasized recent warming of relations between the Vatican and Mexico, which has some of the harshest anti-clerical laws outside the Communist bloc despite being overwhelmingly Roman Catholic.

In his homily, the pope said Catholics "cannot in fact refrain from participation in politics, that is, the multiple and various economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural actions destined to promote ... the common good."

The pope appeared to be indirectly challenging Mexico's laws against participation by the church in politics. The 1917 constitution, written after years of revolutionary upheaval, denies recognition to the church and bars priests from

speaking about politics from the pulpit.

Despite the restrictions, the pope received a rousing welcome as he began his tour. More than 200,000 people lined the nine-mile route through the city to the Basilica of Guadalupe, waving flags in the Vatican colors of yellow and white.

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, who lives in Mexico City, sang parts of the Mass.

The crowds were smaller than predicted, possibly due to a light rain. The giant courtyard at the basilica was less than half full with about 30,000 people when the pope arrived.

"I come as a herald of faith and peace, in hopes of boosting the energy of ecclesiastical communities so that they can be of service to their brothers," John Paul said at the airport after a 13-hour flight from Rome.

He was welcomed by a mariachi band playing "Cielito Lindo," or "Little Beautiful Skies," one of Mexico's unofficial anthems.

Salinas, greeting the pope, said: "Your visit is a new encounter with the generosity of a nation of many cultures, plural visions and deep religious sentiments."

The president's presence was part of his two-year initiative to improve relations with the church. Mexico broke diplomatic ties in 1926, after the church sided with conservatives during the Mexican

Revolution.

"This is something new and very important," the pope told a news conference during the flight aboard the papal plane. "We are making efforts to improve relations between the state and the church."

Salinas named a personal representative to the Vatican in February, considered a step toward a possible resumption of diplomatic relations.

The beatification of Juan Diego came during a campaign by the pope to strengthen the church in Latin America, home to nearly half the world's 850 million Roman Catholics.

Beatification is a step toward sainthood and means Masses can be celebrated in the person's honor.

According to legend, Juan Diego carried out-of-season roses to his bishop from the hill where the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared. When he opened his white cloak, the image of the Virgin appeared on it. The Virgin was named patron of the Americas by the church in 1910.

The beatification emphasized the church's recent efforts to appeal to the poor and the Indian minority. In the past, the church backed the ruling classes in repressing Mexico's native population, which is why restrictions on the church were written into the constitution after the 1910-1920 Mexican Revolution.

EMS director says crack's impact on operations was unanticipated

By S.K. BARDWELL

OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

Crack cocaine has affected the city emergency medical system in ways no one anticipated, said Dr. Paul Pepe, director of the Houston Fire Department's emergency medical services division.

In an April report on the problem Pepe said, "the fact of the matter is that crack cocaine led to dramatic increases in all types of EMS responses."

Following are some of the categories of calls for emergency medical assistance that have increased as a result of crack usage, with Pepe's comments.

Chest pain/heart problem: Pepe called the increased number of cocaine-related chest pain syndrome calls in Houston over the last three years "epidemic" and said in 1989, for the first time in its 30-year history, Ben Taub Hospital closed its medical critical care units because they were full. "During that month," Pepe said, "nearly a third of the 70 cardiac critical care patient admissions were critical cocaine-related cases."

Cardiac arrest/arrhythmias: Because cardiac arrest calls require more equipment, manpower and time than other types of calls, Pepe said the increase in drug-related cases, especially prevalent in patients under 40, has placed "special new demands on the EMS system, significantly diminishing the availability of ambulances and pumper companies."

Abdominal pain, sick calls, unknown medical emergencies: Pepe calls these the grab-bag terms used by dispatchers when a caller is unable to clearly state a specific problem. These calls often turn out to be drug related, he said, and are so categorized because the caller did not want to admit to drug use or notices only vague symptoms attributable to drug use and/or AIDS from past drug use.

Difficulty breathing: The number of such calls has increased dramatically, Pepe said, especially among patients under 30. Most of those young patients' problems are drug-related, he said.

Stroke, seizures: The department is seeing what Pepe called a surprising number of strokes in young people who subsequently are found to have cocaine in their system. He outlines a typical chain of events he calls "predictable, dra-

matic and irreversible: The patient suffers a seizure or cardiac arrest followed by a difficult resuscitation. If resuscitated, the patient has temperature over 105 degrees and over the next four hours develops respiratory distress syndrome, total cardiovascular collapse and death.

Psychiatric behavior problems: Simply using cocaine can make one act "crazy," Pepe said. Other problems such as delusions, paranoia, erratic emotions and desperation develop over a period of usage, and during withdrawal, he said.

Overdose: "Simply put, over the last five years our increases in overdoses have not been due to heroin, suicide with pills or 'ice,'" Pepe said. "It's been crack cocaine."

Trauma: Not only are they ris-

ing dramatically, Pepe said the trauma cases the department sees now "are different than ever before. We saw patients who were purposefully run over after they had been shot, slashed and beaten. We began to see children caught in the crossfire and ... teens with guns fighting over turf and drug deals."

In addition, Pepe said, a large number of accident victims seen by paramedics in the last few years have had cocaine in their systems, and the numbers of gunshot wounds and "dead on arrival" calls have increased dramatically.

In concluding his report Pepe wrote that beyond the human tragedy represented by the increase in drug-related calls, "it has outstripped our ability to meet the day-to-day needs of the public for emergency care."

DRUGS: Related calls causing crunch for emergency services

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cials expect to be broken again this year.

Medical emergency calls to the department jumped 48 percent between 1984 to 1989, and Houston fire Chief Robert Clayton and EMS director Dr. Paul Pepe estimate 30 percent of the department's EMS dollars are used in the care of illness or injury either directly or indirectly related to drug abuse.

An ambitious \$7.9 billion national anti-drug strategy unveiled in September by President Bush contained funds to help law enforcement agencies, judicial systems, correctional institutions, health clinics, treatment centers, schools and even foreign governments fight the drug war.

But the plan contained neither hope nor help for the Houston Fire Department and others like it in the nation's major cities, all taxed to their limits by drug-related medical calls.

In 1989, Houston got \$700,000 in federal anti-drug law enforcement funds. The Houston Police Department got millions more as its share of profits from the seizure of property and cash during federal drug raids in which it participated.

"We're all on the same side, af-

ter all," he said.

Right now the city cannot give the fire department any of the federal anti-drug funds it receives through the state. The federal legislation making the funds available also restricts their use, earmarking them specifically for law enforcement, education or other efforts.

Clayton said he "started the ball rolling" at a Washington, D.C. function last week when he buttonholed U.S. congressmen Bill Archer and Jack Fields as well as aides from the offices of U.S. congressmen Tom DeLay and Craig Washington.

Clayton said all those he spoke with expressed some surprise at the impact crack cocaine use has had on EMS providers, and agreed that ways of allowing them to share in the distribution of federal anti-drug funds should be explored.

He took the project a step further last weekend at a Baltimore meeting of the metropolitan division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

His proposal to that group, that a way be found to make federal anti-drug funds available to EMS providers, will be taken through the ranks of the fire chiefs association and eventually to the Fire Caucus of Congress, Clayton said.



Associated Press

Pope John Paul II waves to crowd on his way to the Basilica in Mexico City.

FLOODING: Official to urge major evacuation

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the heavy rains that soaked the Dallas area, which has taken in more than 27 inches of rain so far this year — nearly three times the normal amount.

"They are releasing 31,700 cubic feet per second — that's twice the normal amount — at this point," he said. "They're talking about going quite a bit higher than that" early this week.

About 40 homes in the Trinity River Plaza subdivision near Keneff and 15-20 homes in the Trinity River Triple Estate near Liberty have experienced difficulties due to the flooding, said Mitchum. Many were evacuating their homes, while others were boating in and out of the area.

About 200 people living in Dayton Lakes probably won't be able to reach their homes in the next day or two when water, now rising over the main road, will drown it in 4-6 feet and make it impassable, Mitchum predicted.

Mitchum said officials were gearing up for the fruition of the Trinity River Authority's dire prediction of "the worst flood since 1908."

"We certainly hope for the best. We expect the worst," he said.

National Guardsmen helped sandbag against rising streams Sunday in Arkansas and a reservoir on the Texas-Oklahoma border that flooded shoreline homes reached a record height and kept rising. The worst of the flooding was expected to be more apparent today in the Little Rock area, about 24 hours before the Arkansas River is predicted to crest 5 feet above flood stage, said officials.

On the Oklahoma-Texas border, Lake Texoma topped the old record of 643 feet above sea level Saturday, nearly 27 feet above normal, and continued rising Sunday to 644.8 feet. The lake was expected to crest today at about 645 feet, or 5 feet above the overflow spillways.

At Trinidad, about 60 miles southeast of Dallas, the Trinity was 47.5 feet deep on Sunday, far above the 28-foot flood stage. About 150 people were evacuated from their flooded homes in the area.

The American Red Cross said it

had completed surveys in 28 counties and was continuing to work around the clock to assess damages in Anderson, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Harrison, Henderson, Kaufman and Tarrant counties. The latest figures showed 723 dwellings destroyed and more than 2,000 others damaged from the flooding.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

DOME: HSA official fumes over anti-smoking literature at event

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than an hour.

"You know where you're supposed to be — outside the (parking lot) gate," Coakley said. "You're blocking my entrance. I'm going to file trespassing charges against you and you can go downtown (to jail) and call your lawyer."

"I can't believe it," Gorczynski said. "There are about 10 security personnel here and just five of us.

We were over on the side. We were not blocking the way. We were just passing out information.

"To me, the most contemptible thing the tobacco industry does is its specialized targeting of women and minorities for cigarette addiction," Gorczynski said. Many of the Camel advertisements at the Cinco de Mayo event were written in Spanish.

"Why are you allowing them to give out cigarettes?" Blum asked

Coakley. "You're doing a real shameful thing here. They're pushing drugs in there. More people are killed by cigarettes than are killed by cocaine."

Blum then asked Coakley if anybody going into the event was bothered by them handing out their anti-smoking literature. "I'm bothered by it," Coakley replied. He later lit up and smoked a cigarette.

Blum said he estimated about

1,000 Houston Hispanics would die this year from lung cancer as a result of smoking.

After HSA personnel stopped the group from handing out their literature, its members bought tickets to the event and walked around taking pictures of the activities sponsored by Camel cigarettes.

"Today our objective was to kill the camel," Blum said. "Maybe we wounded him a little. He sure smelled bad anyway."